

# THE TULSA STAR

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## THE OWL COLUMN

WITH THIS ISSUE OF THE STAR we are introducing a new feature which promises to be of much interest to our readers. It is the OWL COLUMN. This department will be devoted purely and solely to local conditions, and will be under the supervision of a man whose identity will not be made public. The editor-in-chief of the Star, however, will assume all legal responsibility and liability for any libelous or erroneous statements against the character or reputation of any individual, firm or corporation. Any one may communicate with the editor of this department through the medium of writing and addressing same to The Tulsa Star, (OWL DEPARTMENT), and mailing or sending it to this office. All such mail or communication will be delivered to the OWL EDITOR.

## TULSA'S SOCIAL CONDITIONS

THIS COMMON PLACE AXIOM that no race can ever rise above the level of the moral status of its women is true without question, but this axiom must carry with it the fact that the male contingent of the race should also possess the standard of high moral and elevating women in order to substantiate the idealism of its womanhood. A race is judged by its standards of moral, elevating and high aspirations of social and Christian character, and takes its place in the ranks of civilization in so far as it meets the approval of the best of mankind and womanhood. Therefore it should be the desire and hope of any race to strive for the highest pinnacle of moral standards and self-respecting lives.

As with races so it is with communities, individuals and homes. To purify the social lives of each of these should be the ambition of all that the education and training may be highly developed and exemplified. No community or people need hope to be honored and respected without these elements of social standing. Our own community here is greatly in need of a purer and higher standard of moral activity. A line of distinction between the good and the bad, a line of demarcation between the polished lady and gentleman and the rough, uncouth and degenerate individual. We have the unheard of custom in Tulsa of little or no class distinction being drawn in the social life of its people. A comingling of all classes without regard to character, social standing or the manner of living. We have it from reliable sources that in our public schools are one or two teachers whose reputation is common notoriety as being morally unfit for the position, but is at the same time accepted on equal footing with the best classes of the city. To say that any community looking forward to the best in life for their children or the establishment of social standards for the community and yet tolerate these adverse conditions which are reflections upon our standard of good morals and social environments. We believe there are enough of the high-minded, lovers of an ideal standard of race morals and character to overbalance the tendencies to the lower strata of the unwholesome element who are undermining our social structure and degrading the race the community and the home. First of all let the well-meaning portion of our people rid the community of the immoral teacher, and those who pose as leaders leading lives of questionable respectability. Set up a standard of morals and force a line of class distinction that every man and woman must come to before they are recognized as respectable and upright citizens. It can be done, it must be done to safeguard the future of our boys and girls who are now taking of ways and actions as examples for imitation.

We have been playing the part of moral cowards too long; we have been too afraid of hurting somebody's feelings, we have been too careless of our duty not only to ourselves, but to our posterity; we have been too free, entirely, in our social comingling. As a natural consequence the really respectable and well-meaning people are after thrown in direct contact with the moral slums of the race. The churches and lodges are no longer protection against these unwholesome conditions. There are as many moral leopards in the churches and lodges as there are out of them in proportion to a relative population. These are hard facts and we might as well wake up NOW and fortify ourselves for the fight that must come, if we would have social purity in Tulsa.

Our wives and daughters are associating daily with women of few character and men who have no regard for the chastity and virtue of womanhood, and our boys are being brought up under conditions worse than those found behind the prison walls. And in the face of all this we are standing with folded arms apinely looking on while the foundation of our very racial life is being destroyed. Because of these conditions, more than anything else, the race is suffering the humiliation of "Jim Crowism" and other discriminations. If there is a spark of true manhood and womanhood left in the community (and there is) it should enlist in the fight for true racial uplift. The time is now here. The fight is on. Will you enlist?

## BRISTOW MAN COMPLIMENTS THE STAR

Bristow, Okla., May 14, -1918.  
Hon. A. J. Smitherman,  
Tulsa, Okla.

Dear Sir:—This will inform you that the Independent Northwestern Creek Baptist Association of which Rev. R. C. Lee of Beggs is moderator, closed a prosperous session of the executive board at Beggs, Okla. All of the churches were represented both religiously and financially and showed much improvement on all lines. Rev. T. W. Stevenson, moderator of Southwest Creek and Seminole Association and Rev. J. W. Cole, state missionary, rendered valuable assistance and much good is being done. The Women's Sunday School, and B. Y. P. U. departments are all in a prosperous condition, \$43.00 was appropriated to the Creek and Seminole Baptist college at Clearview, Okla., which closed last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. I was there to attend the exercises which were exceedingly grand in all departments. Prof. Sam A. White has accomplished much good and this school is destined to be one of the great educational institutions of the land. Rev. S. S. Jones, Rev. W. H. Woods, Rev. G. T. Daniels and their wives were among the visitors, and many others too numerous to mention. Five hundred dollars was raised to take care of the obligations of the school and Rev. S. S. Jones, president of the Baptist State Convention, and also president of the trustee board of the school, with his clever assistants, is leaving no stone unturned to make the school and the Baptist just what they ought to be, throughout the state, just as you are making the Star great in your courage in the publication of a Negro Journal that can always be depended on in fighting our battles in time of

need. Mr. Editor, if this misses the waste basket, you will hear from me again.

Fraternally,  
J. H. HAMILTON.

## TULSA MAY HAVE THIRD COLORED DRUG STORE

Drs. William Kyle, man and wife, of Kansas City, who have been in this city several days visiting Dr. and Mrs. E. W. Thompson, the latter being a sister to Mrs. Kyle, have decided to remain here and will probably open a new drug store between this and the first of June. Both Mr. Kyle and his wife are pharmacists and both will be in charge of the drug store.

## PACIFIC WILL BE SCENE OF NEXT WAR

Japs Agree with Colonel, and Nippon Prepares for the Day.

Tokyo, Japan, May 15.—The newspaper Hochi Shimbun endorses the prophecy of Theodore Roosevelt that the Pacific ocean some day will become the theatre of international activity and foresees the day when several powers will become rivals for dominion over the ocean. While the main motive of the other powers will be economic, the paper points out that in the case of Japan the Pacific problem is one of life and death. It says:

"Suppose Germany finds a way out through Russia to Siberia and America, with bases at Honolulu and Manila, commences relations with China and Siberia and shuts off the seas south of Formosa. Then Japan will be like a mouse in a trap—helpless and hopeless. Hence the question of what shall be done with the south

## WANTED

One Thousand Men, Women and Children TO ATTEND THE AGRICULTURAL SHORT COURSE AT THE Colored Agricultural and Normal University LANGSTON, OKLAHOMA

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 23, 24 and 25, 1918

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Our own agricultural faculty and the very efficient U-shaped plow and women in the field work will assist and conduct Round Tables.

## NO EXPENSES EXCEPT FOR BOARD AND ROOM

Tuition will be FREE and Board and Room in the Dormitories may be had for 50 cents a day. This is cheaper than you can live at home.

## EVERYBODY INVITED

COME YOURSELF and bring all of YOUR FRIENDS. A TREAT FOR ALL.

## FARMERS' CONFERENCE, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 22

3:00 O'clock in connection with the Commencement Program. Good Speakers have been provided. Luncheon will be served FREE to all who attend our exercises on this day.

Write us for further information if you wish it, and we will be glad to notify you if you are planning on being present at either the Farmers' Conference, the Short Course or BOTH.

J. M. MARQUESS, President.

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sea islands assumes an importance which cannot be overestimated. The greater the opposition to Japan's holding them, the more important and necessary they become to Japan's defensive policy."

## ANOTHER TULSA BOY ENLISTS

Word has been received in this city that Raymond L. Cox, 18 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Cox, 12 North Exter, has enlisted in the U. S. army and will leave Angel Island, Cal., next week for Newport News, Va., from which point he will sail for France.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Black Boys in Khaki—A Movement has been set on foot to supply our soldiers with Negro books by Negro Authors—books of a kind now not given to them, but which they greatly desire. We request our readers who are in sympathy with this Movement and wish for full particulars to send a postal card containing their names and addresses to "The Negro Books for Negro Soldiers Movement," 61 Bible House, New York City.

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